WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An image processing apparatus comprising:

extraction means for extracting a pixel signal of a defective pixel included in image pickup means having a plurality of pixels and determining a defective pixel; and

block-forming means for forming positional information of a plurality of the defective pixels determined by said extraction means into a block.

2. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising storage means for storing the positional information of the defective pixels of the image pickup means in units of blocks formed by said block-forming means.

3. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said block-forming means forms the positional information of the plurality of defective pixels of the image pickup means into the block by coding the positional information of the defective pixels.

4. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said block-forming means forms the positional information of the plurality of defective pixels of the image pickup means into the block by using run-length coding.

5. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the block comprises positional information of pixels in the image pickup means required for correcting the defective pixel signals.

6. An image processing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising correction means for correcting the defective pixel signals in units of blocks included in said image-pickup means by using the positional information of the defective pixel signals stored in said storage means.

7. An image processing apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing, in units of blocks, positional information of a plurality of defective pixels included in image pickup means having a plurality of pixels; and

correction means for correcting defective pixel signals of the defective pixels in the image pickup means in units of blocks by using the positional information of the defective pixels stored in said storage means.

8. An image processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said storage means stores the positional information of the defective pixels in the image pickup means in units

of blocks by coding the positional information of the
defective pixels in the image pickup means.

9.   An image processing apparatus according to claim 7,
wherein said storage means stores the positional information
of the defective pixels in the image pickup means which are
formed into the block by using run-length coding.

10.   An image processing apparatus according to claim 7,
wherein the block comprises positional information of pixels
required for correcting defective pixel signals of the
defective pixels in the image pickup means.

11.   An image processing method comprising:
    a first step of extracting a defective pixel signal of
a defective pixel included in image pickup means having a
plurality of pixels; and
    a second step of forming positional information of a
plurality of defective pixels included in the image pickup
means into a block based on the extracted defective pixel
signals.

12.   An image processing method according to claim 11,
wherein said second step forms the positional information of
the defective pixels into the block by coding the positional

information of the defective pixels.

13. An image processing method according to claim 11, wherein said second step forms the positional information of the defective pixels into the block by using run-length coding.

14. An image processing method according to claim 11, wherein the block comprises positional information of pixels having pixel signals required for correcting the defective pixel signals.

15. An image processing method according to claim 11, further comprising a third step of correcting, in units of blocks, the defective pixel signals of the defective pixels included in the image pickup means by using the positional information of the defective pixels in the image pickup means formed into the block.

16. An image processing method comprising:

a first step of reading, in units of blocks, positional information of a plurality of defective pixels included in image pickup means having a plurality of pixels; and

a second step of correcting defective pixel signals of the defective pixels included in the image pickup means in

units of blocks.

17. An image processing method according to claim 16, wherein the positional information of the defective pixels in the image pickup means comprises coded information.

18. An image processing method according to claim 16, wherein the positional information of the defective pixels in the image pickup means comprises information using run-length coding.

19. An image processing method according to claim 16, wherein the block comprises positional information of pixels having pixel signals required for correcting the defective pixel signals.

20. A storage medium for storing a program which comprises:

a first step of extracting a defective pixel signal of a defective pixel included in image pickup means having a plurality of pixels; and

a second step of forming positional information of a plurality of defective pixels included in the image pickup means into a block based on the extracted defective pixel signals.

21. A storage medium according to claim 20, wherein said second step forms the positional information of the defective pixels into the block by coding the positional information of the defective pixels.

22. A storage medium according to claim 20, wherein said second step forms the positional information of the defective pixels into the block by using run-length coding.

23. A storage medium according to claim 20, wherein said program further comprises a third step of including positional information of pixels having pixel signals required for correcting the defective pixel signals in the block.

24. A storage medium according to claim 20, wherein said program comprises a fourth step of correcting, in units of blocks, the defective pixel signals of the defective pixels included in the image pickup means by using the positional information of the defective pixels in the image pickup means formed into the block.

25. A storage medium for storing a program which comprises:

a first step of reading, in units of blocks, positional information of a plurality of defective pixels included in image pickup means having a plurality of pixels; and

a second step of correcting defective pixel signals of the defective pixels included in the image pickup means in units of blocks.

26. A recording medium according to claim 25, wherein said first step forms the positional information of the defective pixels in the image pickup means into the block by coding the positional information of the defective pixels in the image pickup means.

27. A storage medium according to claim 25, wherein said program further comprises a third step of forming the positional information of the defective pixels in the image pickup means into the block by using run-length coding.

28. A storage medium according to claim 25, wherein said program further comprises a fourth step of including positional information of pixels having pixel signals required for correcting the defective pixel signals in the block.

29. An image processing system comprising:

image pickup means having a plurality of pixels for picking up an image of a subject;

an image processing apparatus for performing image processing of an image signal from said image pickup means, comprising:

storage means for storing, in units of blocks, positional information of a plurality of defective pixels included in said image pickup means having a plurality of pixels; and

correction means for correcting defective pixel signals of the defective pixels in the image pickup means in units of blocks by using the positional information of the defective pixels stored in said storage means;

a monitor for monitoring the image signal processed by said image processing apparatus;

a network for transmitting the image signal processed by said image processing apparatus; and

an image database, connected to said network, for storing the image signal.